

**FACULTY OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
CHAMBER SINGERS**

Doreen Rao, conductor

**Guest Artist
Robert Aitken, flute**



Friday, February 26, 1993 at 8pm
Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building
and
Saturday, February 27, 1993 at 8pm
Victoria College Chapel, Victoria College

PROGRAMME

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| Gloria | Dominick Argento
(b. 1927) |
| Laudamus Te | Antonio Vivaldi
(1678 - 1741) |
| Stacey Fraser, Nanette Masson, sopranos | |
| Quoniam - Cum Sancto Spiritu | Imant Raminsh
(b. 1943) |
| Erika Tanner, soprano; Vilma Vitols, mezzo soprano
Mark McCallen, tenor; Gary Brown, bass | |
| The Fluteplayer (Canadian premiere) | John Burge
(b. 1961) |
| Robert Aitken, flute
Teri Dunn, soprano | |
| ***INTERMISSION*** | |
| Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52 | Johannes Brahms
(1833 - 1897) |
| Janet Brenneman, conductor | |
| Spirit of the Dead | Larysa Kuzmenko
(b. 1956) |
| At the River
Simple Gifts | Aaron Copland
(1900 - 1990) |
| Mark McCallen, conductor | |
| The Promise of Living | |
| Precious Lord, Take My Hand | Thomas A. Dorsey
(1905 - 1956)
arr. Arnold Seirei |

Programme Notes

The Fluteplayer

John Burge

The Fluteplayer was premiered on August 22, 1990 by the BBC Singers, Greg Mitchell, alto flute and John Poole, conducting at the Dartington International Summer School, Totnes, England.

The music for *The Fluteplayer* is written in a rich harmonic language often employing a choral division into as many as ten separate parts. This sense of density is apparent from the first choral entry during which the female voices enter underneath the flute solo that began the work. While the flute solo continues, the music, still limited to only the female voices, builds into a florid six-part setting of the poem's opening line. The climax of this passage occurs simultaneously with the addition of the male voices; the tenors at this point carrying an important melodic phrase that is recalled throughout the remainder of the work.

Like the poem itself, the form of the musical setting is rhapsodic in nature. The music's overall progression from one section to the next is primarily achieved by allusions to previous passages or subtle motivic connections rather than any reliance upon a set design or obvious formal structure. In fact, the organization of the poem into only a single sentence despite its guise of a three-stanza division, strongly suggests the momentary expression of a person's fleeting thoughts-- Someone who feels that they must surely have stumbled upon confirmation that there exists a divine power.

The flute is often treated as an obbligato instrument above the choral texture but occasionally, like the join between the first two stanzas, the flute functions in more of a solo capacity, carrying the melodic weight entirely on its own. At certain points the flute is used to add an atmospheric colour to the choral sound by playing distant-sounding phrases that are pitched in a slightly different tonality from that of the choir. The constant rubato and unmetered passages make the work's overall duration unpredictable but most performances will probably take between 22-26 minutes.



Meet the Artists

Since the fall of 1987, **John Burge** has been teaching in the School of Music at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario where he currently holds the position of Assistant Professor. He studied composition at the University of Toronto (B. Mus. and M. Mus.) with John Beckwith, Walter Buczynski and John Hawkins and at the University of British Columbia (D.M.A.) with Stephen Chatman. He has written music for a wide variety of mediums, including many choral pieces. His choral works have been performed by the Elmer Iseler Singers, Vancouver's Cantata Singers, The Phoenix Chamber Choir, the BBC Singers and numerous other choirs. He has received commissions from both the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council. Included among the prizes that he has received are five Young Composers Awards from the Performing Rights Organization of Canada.

Born in Nova Scotia, **Robert Aitken** began his flute studies at the age of nine. At nineteen, he was the youngest member of the Vancouver Symphony to hold a principal playing position. He studied several years on continent and received a Canada Council Grant in 1964 to study in Europe.

In 1965, he joined the Toronto Symphony as co-principal flute for five years. He also participated in Rudolf Serkin's Marlboro Music Festival and held positions in the Stratford Festival's and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Orchestras. Mr. Aitken is artistic director of Toronto's "New Music Concerts" and Vancouver Island's chamber music festival's "Music at Shawnigan". From 1986 to 1989, he directed the Advanced Studies in Music Program at the Banff Centre, School of Fine Arts.

He is a composer, an advocate of contemporary music and recipient of numerous awards. He received the Canada Music Citation, the Wm. Harold Moon Award and the Canadian Music Council Medal, all for dedication to Canadian music at home and abroad. Other prizes come from the Concours International de Flûte de Paris (1971) and the Prix de la Recherche Artistique in Royan, France (1972).

World renowned, Mr. Aitken has presented concerts throughout and with more than forty recordings to his credit, is frequently heard on international radio. Prominent composers including John Cage, George Crumb, Roger Reynolds, and R. Murray Schafer have dedicated works to him. In April, 1988, Mr. Aitken accepted the position of Professor of flute at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg im Breisgau, West Germany.

Representing the University of Toronto's distinguished vocal tradition, the **Chamber Singers** concluded its 1991 - 92 premiere season with a triumphant performance of Mozart's *C Major "Coronation Mass"* at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. The *Toronto Star* praised the choir's Mozart concert as "an exhilarating sequence of choral and instrumental music" noting that "the response to their well- disciplined and full-hearted performance was overwhelming." Comprised of gifted undergraduate music students, the chamber choir is dedicated to the performance of a culturally diverse and distinctive repertoire.

The Chamber Singers first recording, *Chanter Avec Joie* is now available at the Faculty of Music Concert Office. Their "On Campus" concerts are frequently broadcast on "CJRT Concert", 91.1 FM. The Chamber Singers have appeared with Doreen Rao in choral workshops and concert demonstrations in Canada and the United States.

Conductor and master teacher **Doreen Rao** is recognized internationally as one of North America's leading authorities on music performance as music education. Since 1988, Dr. Rao has been Director of Choral Programmes at the University of Toronto where she teaches Music Education and conducts the University Symphony Chorus and Chamber Singers. She enjoys her position as Director Emerita of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, an outstanding music performance program recognized as a model for music education and acclaimed for its award-winning recordings with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Rao has appeared extensively as guest conductor and choral clinician throughout the world with recent conducting appearances in the UK, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Finland, and Namibia. She was the first woman to conduct the National Symphony Orchestra in Johannesburg, South Africa. In a recent review of her Lincoln Centre appearance with the University of Toronto Chamber Singers and Orchestra, writer Arthur Kaptainis remarked that Doreen Rao is the personification of the conductor-educator.

Dr. Rao's many appearances as guest conductor and lecturer have won her an avid and extensive following throughout the world. A CBS television documentary called Doreen Rao's achievements "extraordinary".

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAMBER SINGERS

Leslie Dala, piano

Sopranos

Teri Dunn*
Stacey Fraser
Christine Howlett
Olga Muchajiuk
Nadine Odynski
Marian Sjolander
Erica Tanner

Alto

Kristina Hallberg
Cheryl Lake*+
Nanette Masson*
Tanya Ross
Barbara Vermeulen
Vilma Vitols

Tenor

Daniel Auchincloss
Mathew Baddeley*
Christopher Beall
Robert Herrito
Mark McCallen*+
Casey Prescott
John Reusser

Bass

Tony Bergamin
Gary Brown*
David DeJong
Steve Gokool
Brian Milligan
James Westman

* Section Leader

° Committee Member

+ Student Manager/Librarian

Assistant Conductor: Janet Brenneman

*** Doreen Rao Conducts ***

Thursday Noon Series
Thursday, March 18 at 12:10 pm
Walter Hall - Free
A world premiere preview
of Ruth Watson Henderson's
Gloria

University Symphony Chorus
Saturday, March 20 at 8 pm
MacMillan Theatre - \$8/\$5
Henderson: Gloria, world premiere
Raminsh: Gloria, Toronto premiere
David Bowser, student composer:
Songs of the Great Land

This performance of the Chamber Singers
will be broadcast by CJRT
on Sunday, April 4 at 7pm

